

The GARZETTE

April 1997

The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

As you can see, this month's newsletter is a bit different. We did not get anyone to volunteer in time to put together our regular issue for the month. So in it's place is this greatly abbreviated version.

We had a great meeting in March, I counted 75 people in attendance at one time. We had two visitors with us and eleven new members joining the club bringing our membership to a total of 315.

Thanks to John Veach, KE4D; Jud Whately, W4NZJ; and Mark Kozma, KD3GC for their program on contesting. If you missed the meeting, you also missed Mark's display of some of his wallpaper from his contesting efforts. Once again thanks to those that participated and to Johnny Fearon, W4WKP our program coordinator for putting together this presentation for us.

For the upcoming meeting on April 17, Johnny has arranged for Bob Allphin, K4UEE to give a presentation on the recent DX expedition to Heard Island. It promises to be an interesting evening so plan on being there.

At the March club meeting I presented the budget as approved by the Executive Committee for the club's membership to review and approve. The membership approved the budget as presented that provides for \$11,400.00 in expenses and \$12,100.00 in income. The projection is that we will end the current year with a \$700.00 surplus.

That's the good news, now for the not so good news, in order to balance the ledger, the executive committee made some hard decisions, not the least of which is a proposed dues increase. We will be voting on a set of proposed changes to the club bylaws at the April meeting that will increase the individual membership fee from \$25.00 to \$30.00. The current

rate for family memberships will remain at \$35.00. The 50% discount for senior citizens and full time students will be retained as well.

The other part of the proposed change to the bylaws also has to do with membership in that we will adopt a calendar year membership period instead of the current fiscal year membership period. We hope to accomplish a couple of things with this change, one will be to have a constant source of income into the club for the entire year. The other benefit will be to stabilize the membership, not so much as to the size of the club, we hope to continue to grow, but in the annual large membership drop we see at renewal time. As the membership renewal periods start to stagger we will have a better feel for the size of the club and allow the executive committee to plan and budget for the upcoming year.

The current bylaws read as follows:

F1. Annual dues for the GARS shall be established in accordance with Section G of these bylaws.

1. The fiscal year for the purpose of finances and membership shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.
2. Except for full time students, senior citizens age 65 or over, and families, annual dues for full members shall be \$25.00 per year.
3. Total annual dues for all members in an immediate family shall be \$35.00 per year.
4. Dues for full time students are one-half (1/2) the normal applicable rate. Proof of full time status must be shown to the treasurer. The burden of proof is on the applicant.
5. Dues for members age 65 and older are one-half (1/2) the normal applicable rate. Proof of age must be shown to

the treasurer. The burden of proof is on the applicant.

6. Dues for families where all immediate members are age 65 or over shall be one half (1/2) the applicable family rate. Proof of age for all seeking this reduced rate must be shown to the treasurer. The burden of proof is on the applicant.
7. Memberships beginning during the second half of the fiscal year shall be one-half (1/2) the applicable rate described above.
8. Memberships beginning during the last quarter of the fiscal year shall be one-quarter (1/4) the applicable rate described above.

F.2 Any member whose dues have not been paid by the 30th day after the beginning of the fiscal year shall be dropped from the membership, and shall lose all privileges attached to membership. Said ex-member may be reinstated in accordance with section B of these Bylaws.

The bylaws would be changed to read as follows:

F1. Annual dues for the GARS shall be established in accordance with Section G of these bylaws.

1. The fiscal year for the purpose of finances shall be from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.
2. The membership year shall be an annual period beginning when the applicant is accepted by vote as a member of the GARS and ending 365 calendar days later. The membership year for renewing members shall be an annual period beginning at the expiration of the current membership and ending 365 calendar days later.
3. Except for full time students, senior citizens age 65 or over, and families, annual dues for individual members shall be \$30.00 per membership year.
4. Total annual dues for all members in an immediate family shall be \$35.00 per year.
5. Dues for full time students are one-half (1/2) the normal applicable rate. Proof of full time status must be shown to the treasurer. The burden of proof is on the applicant.
6. Dues for members age 65 and older are one-half (1/2) the normal applicable rate. Proof of age must be shown to the treasurer. The burden of proof is on the applicant.
7. Dues for families where all immediate members are age 65 or over shall be one half (1/2) the applicable family rate. Proof

of age for all seeking this reduced rate must be shown to the treasurer. The burden of proof is on the applicant.

F.2 Any member whose dues have not been paid by the 30th day after the end of that member's current membership year shall be dropped from the membership, and shall lose all privileges attached to membership. Said ex-member may be reinstated in accordance with section B of these Bylaws.

Please don't forget that we have several club activities coming up and we will need to get volunteers for those activities. On May 4th, we've got the Walkathon in Duluth that Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW is coordinating. On that same day we have the annual Snellville Days parade that we provide communications for, Mary Fowler, KE4MLH is our coordinator for that event. We also have the annual Hog Mountain Century Bike Ride that Jim Baker, KR4XY is coordinating. Howie Gould, W4NVF is our liaison and coordinator for the Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest security teams.

All of these events require manpower so please get in touch with one or more of these coordinators and volunteer to help out. Please don't think that someone else will step forward because that other guy is probably thinking the exact same thing.

Our weekly GARS family breakfast is still going strong at Steak N' Shake in Lawrenceville. This past weekend we had over 25 in attendance and all of those there had a great time enjoying the fellowship. This is a family outing and we regularly have wives, husbands, and children of club members come and join us. So if you find yourself in the area or better still, make it a point to drop by and join some Saturday morning soon.

That's all for this issue, see you at the club meeting on the 17th.

Ike, KE4GYM

